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ABSTRACT

The Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies of the Detroit Public Schools, Michigan, were created to provide additional instruction to students in kindergarten and grades one through five who did not master specific objectives during the regular school year. A total of 174 schools participated in the 1998-1999 Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies, and more than 8,000 students received program services. This evaluation assessed the staff and parents' perceptions of the program. Data came from questionnaires completed by 120 principals, 871 teachers, 5 other respondents, and 2,491 parents. Survey findings indicate that both staff members and parents would like the program to continue. Teachers were concerned about the delay of supplies, selection of staff, hours of operation, student attendance, the lack of time to complete tasks, and class size. Parents were concerned about the field trips, length of the program, lunch menus, and homework assignments. Parents, teachers, and administrators were pleased that the program allows for additional teaching strategies and more individualized instruction. Extending program length and increasing inservice training are recommended. An appendix contains staff and parent questionnaires. (SLD)

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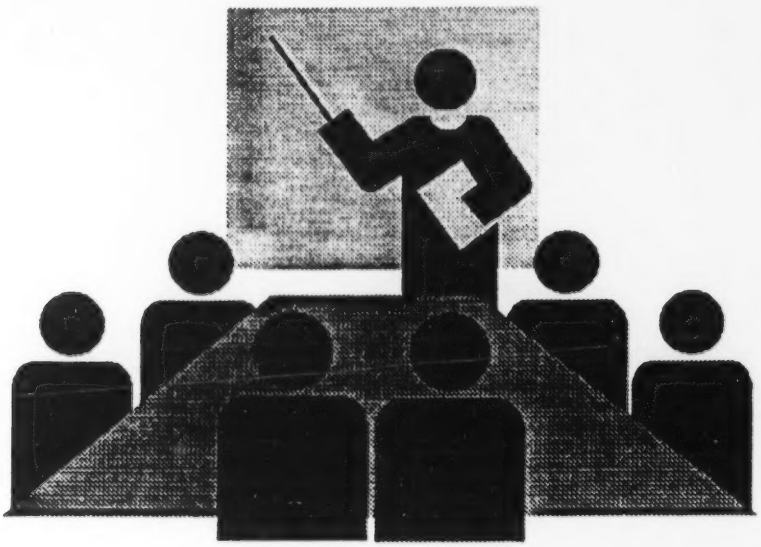
The Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies
Staff and Parents' Perceptions



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The Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies
Staff and Parents' Perceptions

Purposes and Features

The Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies (ESSLA) were created to provide additional instruction to students in kindergarten and grades one through five who did not master specific objectives during the regular school year. Last year's program was for students in kindergarten and grades one and two. This year's program added grades three, four and five. A total of one hundred seventy-four *(174)* schools participated in the 1998-99 Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies.

More than *8,000* students in kindergarten and grades one through five received program services.

The Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies allowed teachers an opportunity to provide individualized instruction due to the reduction of class size. Students were able to strengthen learning of essential skills and achieved mastery in areas not mastered.

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the staff and parents' perceptions of the program, to assess the status of the summer academy, and to collect and process information relevant to program operations, strengths and weaknesses.

The evaluation also identifies how the instruction, curriculum, building and professional development assists principals, teachers and parents with program success.

Methodology

Data collection consisted of two questionnaires which were developed and distributed to principals, staff and parents to each of the 174 schools. The first questionnaire was completed by principal and teachers, and the second questionnaire was distributed to parents of all students enrolled in the program. One hundred twenty *(120)* principal questionnaires were returned, eight hundred seventy-one *(871)* teacher questionnaires were returned, five (5) survey respondents did not indicate whether they were a teacher or an administrator. Two thousand four hundred ninety-one *(2,491)* parent questionnaires were returned. A total of one hundred fifty five *(155)* schools returned survey questionnaires.

Description of the Survey Instruments

The Staff Perceptions Survey instrument consisted of thirty items, (see Appendix). The survey instrument asked staff to indicate their position of either administrator or teacher.

The Staff Perceptions Survey was designed to collect information about the following:

- Implementation of program based on in-service training
- The importance of Exit Skills
- The program effects on student achievement
- The quality and quantity of supplies
- Teacher and parents support of the program
- Student and parents notification about the program
- Overall program satisfaction
- The number of training sessions and how the sessions assisted the Exit Skills program.
- Staff or non-staff in building during regular school year
- Grades taught during summer and regular school
- Recommendations, strengths and weaknesses

Items 1-7 asked staff to respond for each statement by selecting from one to four responses: *"Strongly Agree", "Agree", "Disagree", or "Strongly Disagree".* *Item 19* asked staff to respond by selecting one of four responses: *"Not At All", "Somewhat", "Quite A Bit"* and *"A Great Deal"* concerning the degree the training sessions assisted in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy Program.

Items 20, 21, 22 and *23* asked staff to respond by selecting *"Yes"* or *"No"* to the following:

- Are you comfortable with recommending students for promotion?
- Are you involved in planning and developing the structure of the summer learning academy?
- Is this your first summer teaching in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?
- Are you a regular staff member in this building?

Item 24 asked only Exit Skills teachers to respond to:

- How many Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy students are enrolled in your class?

Item 25 asked, "How many of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy students in your summer class were taught by you during the 1998-99 school

year. *Items 26* and *27* asked staff (teachers) to indicate grade(s) taught during the summer and grade(s) taught during the 1998-99 school year.

Items 28-30, were open-ended questions which asked respondents to consider one major weakness, one major strength and recommendations for improving the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.

The Parents' Perception Survey consisted of nine items which were designed to collect information about the following:

- Parents' notification of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies
- Understanding of why their child was required to attend the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies
- The effects of the program on student achievement.
- Satisfaction with program
- The need for parental support.
- Community support of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.

Items 7-9 were open-ended questions which asked parents to indicate what they liked best, what they liked least and recommendations for improving the Exit Skills Summer Academy.

Analysis of the Data

Staff Perceptions of the Exit Skills Learning Academies

A total of one hundred twenty *(120)* administrators and eight hundred seventy-one *(871)* teachers responded to the Staff Perception Survey. Five (5) survey respondents did not indicate whether they were a teacher or administrator.

In-service Training Six hundred seventy-eight (68.1%) of the staff responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" when asked if they received sufficient in-service training to implement the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy Program *(Item 2)*. Nearly two-thirds (90.1%) felt that the teachers regard Exit Skills as an important element of student achievement *(Item 4)*.

Student Achievement Eight hundred fifty-four (85.7%) of the respondents feel that the Exit Skills Summer Academy will result in improved achievement *(Item 6)*. Seven hundred ninety-one (79.4%) reported "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that the teachers in the building seem to feel that the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy will result in improved achievement *(Item 5)*.

Supplies

Seven hundred sixteen (71.9%) of the staff reported that the teachers in the building feel that they have supplies on-hand to ensure the smooth operation of the Exit Skills Summer Academy *(Item 7)*. Seven hundred sixty-three teachers (76.6%) reported "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" when asked, "I have supplies on-hand to ensure the smooth operation of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy" *(Item 8)*.

Staff Support

Most staff (90.3%) of the teachers feel that overall, "The teachers in this building seem to be supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Academy" *(Item 9)*. Six hundred three (70.6%) staff reported that staff is satisfied with the overall Exit Skills Program *(Item 15)*. Nine hundred eighteen (92.2%) responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" when asked, "I am supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy" *(Item 10)*.

Notification

When staff were asked, "Parents received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy," 83.6% of the staff responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" *(Item 11)*. Eight hundred thirty-six (83.9%) responded "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" when asked if students received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy *(Item 12)*. When staff were asked, "I received sufficient advance notifications about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy," 88.5% "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" with this statement *(Item 13)*.

Staff Morale

When asked, "Staff morale is very good in this school," 83.0% responded "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" *(Item 16)*.

Building

Seven hundred twenty-five (72.8%) of the staff reported "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" when asked, "This school is neat, bright, clean and comfortable" *(Item 17)*.

Table 1 summarizes the staff responses to items 1 through 17 of the Staff Perceptions of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies survey.

Table 1

Summary of Staff Perceptions of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies

Question #	Response										
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Response		Total
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N
1. Overall, the teachers in this school seem to feel that they have received sufficient in-service training to implement the Exit Skills Summer Learning Program.	155	15.6	489	49.1	237	23.8	65	6.5	50	5.0	996
2. I received sufficient in-service training to implement the Exit Skills Summer Learning Program.	206	20.7	472	47.4	219	22.0	72	7.2	27	2.7	996
3. Overall, the teachers in this school seem to recognize the importance of Exit Skills.	376	37.8	518	52.0	68	6.8	11	1.1	23	2.3	996
4. I regard Exit Skills as an important element of student achievement.	405	40.7	492	49.4	76	7.6	16	1.6	7	0.7	996
5. Overall, the teachers in this school seem to feel that the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy will result in improved achievement.	204	20.5	587	58.9	142	14.3	26	2.6	37	3.7	996
6. I feel that the Exit Skills Summer Academy will result in improved achievement.	242	24.3	612	61.4	109	10.9	16	1.6	17	1.7	996
7. Overall, the Summer Learning Academy teachers in this school seem to feel that they have supplies on-hand to ensure the smooth operation of the Exit Skills Summer Academy.	225	22.6	491	49.3	168	16.9	53	5.3	59	5.9	996
8. I have supplies on-hand to ensure the smooth operation of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	269	27.0	494	49.6	154	5.5	36	3.6	43	4.3	996
9. Overall, the Summer Learning Academy teachers in this building seem to be supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	315	31.6	585	58.7	38	3.8	7	0.7	51	5.0	996

Summary of Staff Perceptions of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies (Cont'd)

Question #	Response										
	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree		No Response		Total
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N
10. I am supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	402	40.4	516	51.8	28	2.8	9	0.9	41	4.1	996
11. Parents received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	360	36.1	473	47.5	94	9.4	7	0.7	62	6.2	996
12. Students received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	351	35.2	485	48.7	93	9.3	6	0.6	61	6.1	996
13. I received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	393	39.5	488	49.0	64	6.4	6	0.6	45	4.5	996
14. Parents support the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	185	8.6	583	58.5	140	14.1	14	1.4	74	7.4	996
15. The Summer Learning Academy staff is satisfied with the overall Exit Skills Program.	45	14.6	558	56.0	170	17.1	32	3.2	91	9.1	996
16. Staff morale is very good in this school.	344	34.5	483	48.5	99	9.9	8	0.8	62	6.2	996
17. This school is neat, bright, clean and comfortable.	291	29.2	434	43.6	140	14.1	47	4.7	84	8.4	996

Table 2

Number of Exit Skills Training Sessions Attended by Staff

Question 18: How many Exit Skills training sessions have you attended during the 1998-99 school year?		
Number of Sessions	Number of Staff	Percent of Staff
0	57	5.7%
1	324	32.5%
2	319	32.0%
3	135	13.6%
4	43	4.3%
5	14	1.4%
6	3	0.3%
7	2	0.2%
8	2	0.2%
Other	2	0.2%
No Response	95	9.5%
Total	996	99.9%*

Note: Percent does not total 100 percent due to rounding.

In-service Training. As reported in Table 2, thirty-two and a half percent (32.5%) attended one training session, thirty-two percent (32%) attended at least two training sessions and twenty and two tenths percent (20.2%) attended three or more sessions.

Staff Perceptions of Training Table 3 indicates that 9.3 percent reported that the training sessions did not assist them at all. Over 80 percent reported "Somewhat" or more help from the training sessions *(Item 19)*.

Table 3

Staff Perceptions of the Training Sessions Assistance in Understanding the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy Program

Question #	Response										
	Not At All		Somewhat		Quite A Bit		A Great Deal		No Answer		Total
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N
19. To what degree did the training sessions assist you?	93	9.3	415	41.7	259	26.0	134	13.5	95	9.5	996

Table 4 summarizes the staff responses to the "Yes/No" items on the survey.

Table 4

Staff Responses

Question #	Responses						
	Yes		No		No Response		Total
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N	(%)	N
20. I am comfortable recommending students for promotion?	641	64.4	234	23.5	121	12.1	996
21. I was involved in planning and developing the structure of this Summer Learning Academy.	448	45.0	470	47.2	78	7.8	996
22. Are you a regular staff member in this building?	833	83.6	112	11.2	51	5.1	996
23. Is this your first summer teaching in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?	488	49.0	325	32.6	183	18.4	996

Recommending Students. Six hundred forty-one (64.4%) of the staff reported "Yes" when asked, "I am comfortable recommending students for promotion" *(Item 20)*.

Involved in Planning Item 21 asked if staff were involved in planning and developing the structure of this Summer Learning Academy. Four hundred forty-eight (45.0%) reported "Yes" and four hundred seventy (47.2%) reported "No".

Regular Staff Member Eighty-three percent (83.6%) of the staff responded "Yes" when asked, "Are you a regular staff member in this building?" One hundred twelve (11.2%) reported "No" to this same question *(Item 22)*.

First Time Teaching in Summer Academy. Of the nine hundred ninety-six responses, (49.0%) reported "Yes" when asked, "Is this your first summer teaching in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies". Three hundred twenty-five (32.6%) said "No" *(Item 23)*.

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Table 5 summarizes the number of students enrolled in each classroom. One hundred forty-six of the seven hundred forty-eight (19.5%) teachers that responded to item 24 reported having a class size greater than 15 students. Thirty-four teachers reported having a class size greater than 35 students.

Table 5

Number and Percent of Teachers Reporting Student Enrollment Class Size

Question 24 How many Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy students are enrolled in your class?		
Class Size	Number of Teachers	Percent of Teachers
1	6	0.6
2	3	0.3
3	4	0.4
4	8	0.8
5	13	1.3
6	38	3.8
7	27	2.7
8	63	6.3
9	54	5.4
10	92	9.2
11	64	6.4
12	85	8.5
13	46	4.6
14	39	3.9
15	60	6.0
16	22	2.2
17	23	2.3
18	16	1.6
19	17	1.7
20	17	1.7
21	3	0.3
22	7	0.7
23	3	0.3
24	1	0.1
25	3	0.3
26	4	0.4
27	2	0.2
28	2	0.2
29	5	0.5
30	4	0.4
31	2	0.2
33	1	0.1
35	2	0.2
36	2	0.2
40	6	0.6
42	1	0.1
43	1	0.1
44	1	0.1
45	1	0.1

Table 5

Number and Percent of Teachers Reporting Student Enrollment Class Size (Cont'd)

Question 24 How many Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy students are enrolled in your class?		
Class Size	Number of Teachers	Percent of Teachers
46	3	0.3
48	2	0.2
50	3	0.3
53	1	0.1
55	1	0.1
56	1	0.1
60	1	0.1
62	1	0.1
64	1	0.1
65	2	0.2
66	1	0.1
80	1	0.1
82	1	0.1
85	1	0.1
88	1	0.1
113	1	0.1

No Response – 226 (22.7%)

Table 6 summarizes the number of students taught by their former teacher. The majority of teachers reported teaching students who were not taught by them during the regular school year.

Table 6

Number and Percent of Teachers Reporting Former Students

Question 25: How many of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy students in your summer class were taught by you during the 1998-99 school year?

Number of Teachers	Number of Students	Percent
309	0	31.0
30	1	3.0
46	3	4.6
43	3	4.3
48	4	4.8
46	5	4.6
34	6	3.4
26	7	2.6
28	8	2.8
22	9	2.2
28	10	2.8
14	11	1.4
18	12	1.8
10	13	1.0
9	14	0.9
9	15	0.9
6	16	0.6
4	17	0.4
8	20	0.8
3	21	0.3
5	30	0.5
2	35	0.2
4	40	0.4
4	60	0.4

No Response – 227 (22.8%)

Item 26 asked teachers, "What grade(s) did you teach this summer?" The highest number of teachers, two hundred seventy-five (27.6%), reported grade 3 *(See Table 7)*.

Table 7

Number and Percent of Teachers Reporting Grades Taught During Summer

Question 26: What grade(s) did you teach this summer?

Grades	Number of Teachers	Percent
Pk	19	1.9
K	129	13.0
1	228	22.9
2	238	23.9
3	275	27.6
4	233	23.4
5	153	15.4

No Answer – 201 (20.2%)

Note: Percents total more than 100 percent because multiple answers were permitted.

Item 27 asked teachers, "What grade(s) did you teach during the 1998-99 school year?" Two hundred forty-one (24.2%) reported grade 3 *(See Table 8)*.

Table 8

Number and Percent of Teachers Reporting Grades Taught During the Regular School Year

Question 27 What grade(s) did you teach during the 1998-99 school year?

Grades	Number of Teachers	Percent
Pk	31	3.1
K	114	11.4
1	215	21.6
2	139	19.4
3	241	24.2
4	239	24.0
5	190	29.1
6	45	4.5
7	23	2.3
8	15	1.5
9	1	0.1
10	1	0.1
11	1	0.1
12	1	0.1

No Answer – 231 (23.2%)

Staff Responses

Question 28 asked, "What do you consider to be ***one major weakness*** of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?" The responses are as follows:

- Not enough time **(92)**
- Materials arrived late **(70)**
- Staff training was not adequate **(63)**
- Student attendance **(48)**
- Too much paper work **(45)**
- Class size too large. No more than 10 students. Discipline students **(32)**
- Lesson plans not intensive enough for science **(30)**
- More parental support **(28)**
- Lack of consistency in training, implementation, planning **(20)**
- Competent staff **(12)**
- Summer school teachers should meet with teachers who are recommending students for summer school to discuss goals and expectations. **(10)**
- Lack of information. Not knowing what Exit Skills students needed **(8)**
- Classroom climate, temperature and repairs **(8)**
- Different students needing help in different areas of Exit Skills **(7)**
- Field trips **(6)**
- Evaluation procedures and methods of determining mastery **(5)**

Question 29 asked, "What do you consider to be ***one major strength*** of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?" The responses are as follows:

- Smaller class size, individual attention **(227)**
- Hands-on activities and materials **(36)**
- Teachers are cooperative, team approach **(25)**
- Excellent lesson plans **(20)**
- Labeled skills **(18)**
- Incentives, field trips **(13)**
- Opportunity for children to enhance or improve areas of academic deficiencies **(10)**
- Reinforce skills that have been taught during the regular school year **(8)**
- Promote self-esteem **(7)**
- Training sessions for kindergarten were outstanding **(6)**
- Assessment activities **(5)**
- The central level of support staff **(5)**
- Teacher knows students' weaknesses **(4)**
- Well structured and organized program **(3)**
- Notifying parents and students of the responsibilities in learning **(3)**
- Students attending the academy regularly are destined for some progression **(3)**

Question 30 asked, "What are your ***recommendations*** for the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?" The responses are as follows:

- More and improved training/in-service **(76)**
- Smaller class size **(27)**
- Materials delivered on time, better quality **(26)**
- Mandatory (required) parental support **(23)**
- Too much paperwork **(16)**
- Lesson plans provided all year **(12)**
- Field trips and incentives **(10)**
- More information and better organization **(10)**
- Allow teachers to provide more input into the training and overall design **(9)**
- Mandatory attendance **(7)**
- Air conditioning **(6)**
- Allow principals to pick the best teachers for the job **(6)**
- Increase instructional time and preparation **(5)**
- Grades Pk-K should be provided with nutritional snacks **(5)**
- Allow more students to participate **(4)**
- A report card that reflects Exit Skills and what it means in regards to promotion or retention **(4)**
- All teachers teach two academic areas **(4)**
- More sessions that target areas such as: physical exercise (swimming), museums **(4)**
- Materials selected by teachers **(4)**
- Year round school **(3)**
- Children are too far behind to benefit **(3)**
- Tutorial materials should be used **(2)**
- Bulletin board not required **(2)**

Parents' Perceptions of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies

Two thousand four hundred ninety-one parents responded to the Parents' Perception Survey from a total of *(174)* different schools. Table 9 summarizes the parents responses to items 1 through 6.

Parent Notification Two thousand one hundred forty-nine (87.7%) of the parents said "Yes" when asked did they receive sufficient notification about the Exit Skills Learning Academies. Three hundred one (12.3%) said "No" to the question *(Item 1)*.

Program Purpose Parents were asked, "I understand why my child is required to attend the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy". Two thousand three hundred forty-five (97.6%) said "Yes" and fifty-seven (2.4%) said "No" *(Item 2)*.

Student Improvement When asked if this program is helping my child improve his/her Exit Skills, two thousand three hundred seventy-seven (96.8%) said "Yes" and seventy-eight (3.2%) said "No" *(Item 3)*.

Parent Satisfaction Nearly all of the parents (99.1%) said, "Yes" when asked if they are pleased their child is enrolled in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy". Twenty-two (0.9%) said, "No" *(Item 4)*.

Parental Support Item five asked parents to indicate whether parental support is necessary to ensure the successful operation of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy. Two thousand four hundred twenty-eight (98.7%) said "Yes" and thirty-one (1.3%) said "No" *(Item 5)*.

Community Support When asked if other parents and community members seem to be supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy, one thousand seventy-six (91.7%) said "Yes" and one hundred seventy-eight (8.3%) said "No" *(Item 6)*.

Table 9

Summary of Parents' Perceptions of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies

Question #	Response				
	Yes		No		Total
	N	(%)	N	(%)	N
1. I received sufficient noufication about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy	2149	87.7	301	12.3	2450
2. I understand why my child is required to attend the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy	2345	97.6	57	2.4	2402
3. This summer program is helping my child improve his/her Exit Skills	2377	96.8	78	3.2	2355
4. I am pleased my child is enrolled in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy	2444	99.1	22	0.9	2466
5. I believe parental support is necessary to ensure the successful operation of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy	2428	98.7	31	1.3	2459
6. Other parents and other community members seem to be supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy	1976	91.7	178	8.3	2154

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Parents Responses

Question 7 asked, "What do you ***like best*** about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?" The responses are as follows:

- Smaller classes, one-on-one instruction **(160)**
- Student improvement **(106)**
- Extra attention **(31)**
- Extra learning time, patience **(25)**
- Child eager to attend, enthusiastic **(23)**
- Good teachers who have time to help students **(21)**
- Exit Skills gives my child an extra chance **(15)**
- Breakfast and lunch **(8)**
- Field trips **(8)**
- Workshops for parents **(8)**
- Helps my child improve **(8)**
- Homework daily **(4)**

Question 8 asked, "What do you ***like least*** about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?" The responses are as follows:

- Too short **(91)**
- Hours too early **(45)**
- No homework or homework is unclear **(40)**
- Poor lunches, should not serve pork **(19)**
- Too many field trips **(16)**
- Not enough one-on-one instruction **(13)**
- Bus transportation should be provided **(10)**
- Weekly report or testing **(10)**
- No classes on Fridays **(7)**
- Not offered to all children **(4)**
- No crossing guards **(2)**

Question 19 asked, "What are your ***recommendations*** for improving the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?" The responses are as follows:

- Longer program **(125)**
- Change hours to 9-12:00 a.m. or 3:00 p.m. all days **(125)**
- More parental involvement **(80)**
- More work (homework) **(72)**
- More reading materials **(60)**
- More educational trips **(40)**
- Teachers should be more patient with children **(18)**
- Require the program for all grades and extend the program **(18)**
- Art, crafts, dance and computer classes **(15)**

- More one-on-one contact **(15)**
- Open program to anyone who would like to attend **(8)**
- Better communication. What do I (parent) need to do to help my child? **(7)**
- More local churches and community leaders to help **(5)**
- Crossing guards **(4)**
- Allow textbooks to go home with children **(4)**
- More in-service training and/or computer software **(4)**
- Let learning disabled students attend summer school **(3)**
- Exit Skills are not known to parents until May, which is too late. **(2)**

Conclusions

The results of this year's Exit Skills Summer Learning Academies indicate that the staff and parents would like the program to continue. Teachers are concerned about the delay of supplies, selection of staff, hours of operation, student attendance, and not enough time to complete tasks and class size.

Parents are concerned about the field trips, length of program, luncheon menus and homework assignments.

Parents, teachers and administrators are pleased that the program allowed for additional teaching strategies and more individualized instruction.

This year's Parent's Survey asked parents to provide recommendations for improving the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy. Several parents are in favor of year-round school with one week off between semesters, morning sessions for academics and afternoons for field trips, weekly progress reports and mandatory uniforms.

Recommendations

The program should extend over a longer period of time and in-service training should be more in-depth to address questions related to rating "mastery" on student performance. Parents need to have a more visible part in the program and homework and written evaluations of students' performance are necessary. The quality of lunch menus should be improved.

APPENDIX

Detroit Public Schools
Office of Research, Evaluation and Assessment

SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY STAFF PERCEPTIONS OF THE EXIT SKILLS SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

School: _____

Position: (check one) [ ] Administrator [ ] Teacher

Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy teachers must complete this survey and return it to the principal on or before July 7, 1999. Administrators must complete this survey and return it with all teachers' and parents' surveys to the Office of Research, Evaluation and Assessment on or before Wednesday, July 9, 1999.

DIRECTIONS: PLEASE CIRCLE ONE RESONSE FOR EACH STATEMENT.

SA = Strongly Agree : You strongly agree with the statement.
A = Agree : You agree more than you disagree.
D = Disagree : You disagree more than you agree.
SD = Strongly Disagree: You strongly disagree with the statement.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Overall, the teachers in this school seem to feel that they have received sufficient in-service training to implement the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy Program.	SA	A	D	SD
2. I received sufficient in-service training to implement the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy Program.	SA	A	D	SD
3. Overall, the teachers in this school seem to recognize the importance of Exit Skills.	SA	A	D	SD
4. I regard Exit Skills as an important element of student achievement.	SA	A	D	SD
5. Overall, the teachers in this school seem to feel that the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy will result in improved achievement.	SA	A	D	SD
6. I feel that the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy will result in improved achievement.	SA	A	D	SD
7. Overall, the Summer Learning Academy teachers in this school seem to feel that they have supplies on-hand to ensure the smooth operation of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy	SA	A	D	SD

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
8. I have supplies on-hand to ensure the smooth operation of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	SA	A	D	SD
9. Overall, the Summer Learning Academy teachers in this building seem to be supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	SA	A	D	SD
10. I am supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	SA	A	D	SD
11. Parents received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	SA	A	D	SD
12. Students received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	SA	A	D	SD
13. I received sufficient advance notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	SA	A	D	SD
14. Parents support the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	SA	A	D	SD
15. The Summer Learning Academy staff is satisfied with the overall Exit Skills Program.	SA	A	D	SD
16. Staff morale is very good in this school.	SA	A	D	SD
17. This school is neat, bright, clean and comfortable.	SA	A	D	SD
18. How many Exit Skills training sessions have you attended during the 1998-99 school year?				

19. To what degree did the training sessions assist you in understanding the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy Program?

[ ] Not at All [ ] Somewhat [ ] Quite A Bit [ ] A Great Deal

20. I am comfortable recommending students for promotion.

[ ] Yes [ ] No

21. I was involved in planning and developing the structure of this summer learning academy.

[ ] Yes [ ] No

22. Are you a regular staff member in this building? (Circle one) Yes No

Only Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy teachers should answer questions **23-27**.

23. Is this your first summer teaching in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?

[ ] Yes [ ] No

24. How many Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy students are enrolled in your class? _____

25. How many of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy students in your summer class were taught by you during the 1998-99 school year? _____

26. What grade(s) did you teach this summer? (Circle all that apply)

PK K 1 2 3 4 5

27. What grade(s) did you teach during the 1998-99 school year? (Circle all that apply)

PK K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

OPEN-END QUESTIONS

28. What do you consider to be **one major weakness** of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy? (Use back of page if more space is required.)

_____

_____

29. What do you consider to be **one major strength** of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy? (Use back of page if more space is required.)

_____

_____

30. What are your **recommendations** for improving the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?

_____

_____

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PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE EXIT SKILLS SUMMER LEARNING ACADEMY

Directions: **The Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy provides selected students with special help on their Exit Skills. Exit Skills are the important skills children need in the next grade to be successful. Statements about the program are presented below. Read each statement. If you think the statement is true, circle "Yes". If you think the statement is <u>not</u> true, circle "No".**

Please return your completed survey to your child's teacher by July 6, 1999.

1. I received sufficient notification about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	Yes	No
2. I understand why my child is required to attend the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	Yes	No
3. This summer program is helping my child improve his/her Exit Skills.	Yes	No
4. I am pleased my child is enrolled in the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	Yes	No
5. I believe parental support is necessary to ensure the successful operation of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	Yes	No
6. Other parents and other community members seem to be supportive of the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy.	Yes	No

7. What do you like **<u>best</u>** about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?

_____

_____

8. What do you like **<u>least</u>** about the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?

_____

_____

9. What are your **<u>recommendations</u>** for improving the Exit Skills Summer Learning Academy?

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